



the GULL

Volume 65

Berkeley, Calif.

May 1983

Number 5

May Meeting - Annual Picnic

Thursday, May 12, is the Annual Picnic. John Ogden of the Condor Research Center will be the featured speaker at the May meeting. Bring a picnic to Tilden Park at 5:30 p.m. The program will begin at 7:30 in the Nature Center. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the telemetry program and the recent hatching of the condor chicks in captivity. Plan to attend both the picnic and the program. There are bird and flower walks between the picnic and the program.

-TRUDI JACKSON

ANNUAL MEETING POTLUCK

Mark your calendars now for the third Friday in June and watch for the June issue of the *Gull* for details of the annual meeting to be held at the Boathouse, Lake Merritt, Oakland, on June 17.

Field Trips Calendar

See the April *Gull* for the following trips:

Sunday, May 1—Bodega Bay.

Saturday, May 7—Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.

Saturday, May 7—Beginners' Trip to Briones Regional Park.

Saturday/Sunday, May 14/15—Groveland to Hetch Hetchy for Bird Song and Pizza.

NOTE: The trip scheduled for May 14 to Mt. Diablo State Park has been canceled. A new trip for this date is listed below.

Wednesday, May 11—Mini-trip to Briones Regional Park. Meet at the park at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 east to the Orinda turnoff. Turn

left and follow the San Pablo Dam Rd. about two miles to Bear Creek turnoff. Turn right and drive about two miles to Briones Regional Park entrance on the right. Wildcat Canyon Dr. across Tilden Park from the top of Spruce St. in Berkeley will also take you to Bear Creek Rd. We should see Northern Orioles, Lark Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Lazuli Buntings. Leaders: Enid Leff (386-8310) and Maud Whalen (922-5941).

Saturday, May 14—Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Meet at **8 a.m.** at Arlington Park at Arlington Ave. and Brewster Dr. in El Cerrito. From there we will drive to the starting point. Pack lunch and liquids for a six-mile hike. Boots are advisable. We will encounter some hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird in brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streamsides and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a good representation of nesting and migrating birds of the East Bay. We will also identify common trees of the area. People with allergies should be aware that we will encounter grassy conditions. The trip will end at 2 p.m. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (841-3086). (✓)

Sunday, May 22—Five Brooks Trailhead and Inverness Ridge. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H. From Hwy. 101 exit at Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and go east to the terminal. From the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge go south toward San Anselmo to the terminal. We will carpool from there to Five Brooks (about five miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). We should arrive by 9 a.m. Pack a lunch and wear hiking boots for a five-mile walk up Inverness Ridge. We should see a fine variety of spring migrants and, hopefully, Purple Martins. Leader: George Hugenberg (526-5289). (✓)

Friday-Sunday, June 3-5—Birding by Ear in Yosemite. The lower elevations of Yosemite National Park are alive with sound in early June. Among many other species, the leader anticipates seven flycatchers (including four Empidonax), three vireos and seven warblers—all in full song. Bring warm clothing, pack a lunch and plan on walking about six miles. We plan to stay at the group camp at Hogdon Meadow Campground. To reach the camp, turn left (north) 0.1 mile past the Big Oak Flat entrance station. Because last-minute changes in camp site may have to be made, before you leave the Bay Area be sure to call the leader or the GGAS office (843-2222).

Also if you can come up early and help us occupy a group site starting Thursday, June 2, please call the leader.

*Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society, office address 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705-1179
Second class postage paid in Berkeley, CA. (THE GULL-ISSN 0164-971X)*

The nearest motels are 20 miles or more from the meeting place. If you are approaching from Merced, try the small town of El Portal (AAA book). On the north side, try the Sugar Pine Ranch Motel near Groveland along Hwy. 120 (209-962-7823). Yosemite Valley is 30 miles from the meeting place.

Meet at the Big Oak Flat entrance station on **Friday, June 3, at 3 p.m.**; **Saturday, June 4, at 8 a.m.** On Friday, we will also meet you at the same place at 10:30 p.m. to help night drivers find our camp. Hwy. 120 leads directly to the Big Oak Flat entrance station or approach through the park from the south. Get a map to orient yourself. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106). (✓)

Summer Camping Trips

Details for these and additional summer trips will be in the June and July/August *Gulls*.

Saturday/Sunday, June 11/12—Mono Lake. Leaders: Paul and Helen Green (526-5943).

Saturday/Sunday, June 25/26—Yuba Pass. Leader: Peter Allen (981-7199).

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, July 15-17—Lassen Volcanic National Park. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

March Observations – through March 30

Until its final days March seemed like one long winter storm. Offshore the ocean remains abnormally warm, without usual upswelling. At SE Farallon Island the seabirds seem to be delaying reproduction in the absence of their breeding season foods. A very poor breeding season is predicted (PRBO).

Paralleling low populations on the mainland, "the usual wintering landbirds species" on SE Farallon Island "are essentially not here and at present there are only two Golden-crowned Sparrows which seem as if they will last through the winter."

ALBATROSSES TO DUCKS

Sometime around March 6-8 four seabirds, apparently exhausted by the storms, landed on a Matson Lines container ship bound for Oakland from Honolulu. Three disappeared shortly after docking March 9, but one was rescued at the Port of Oakland and taken to Lake Merritt for

rehabilitation (DK, GB). This individual proved to be a Layson Albatross. Another Layson Albatross (and one hopes, one of the same four seabirds) appeared in Concord March 12 and is being rehabilitated at Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum (BS). Perhaps for similar causes, the Monterey SPCA received a distressed Black-footed Albatross March 16 (PQ, fide GB). Albatrosses from Hawaii fledge during July and August, so these were not simply juveniles unable to cope with the ocean.

Palo Alto's Least Bittern continued to show itself through March 4 (mob, JR, FB, GC). Almost all of northern California's White-faced Ibises now winter in the marshes and wet fields of the Los Banos-Gustine-Stevenson triangle in Merced County and this is proving to be the focus of the invading Cattle Egrets, which often forage with the Ibises. On March 1, 175 Cattle Egrets and 300 White-faced Ibises were three miles west of Stevenson (RS) and six days later 250 Egrets and 75 Ibises were two miles south of Stevenson. These feeding concentrations were in fields: the marshes were undoubtedly submerged! Other Cattle Egrets were about 12 at Zmudowski State Beach Feb. 20 (DQ) and two were near Mendoza Schoolhouse March 29 (AS, et al.).

Both Tufted Ducks were reported to mid-month: the female at Foster City to March 11 (mob, JL) and the male at Mill Valley to March 13 (mob). The female King Eider lingered in Emeryville through the month (March 27-GH). A male Harlequin Duck visited The Brothers at Pt. San Pablo Feb. 26 (BR) and one roosted and swam just east of Fort Point, San Francisco, ca. March 16-23 (AR, RR, IG, JC, DG). Single Oldsquaws frequented Brickyard Cove Marina, Richmond, through March 13 (mob, DQ), and Lake Merritt through March 15 (mob, JL) and one was at Bodega Bay March 5 (JW, JR, et al.). An impressive concentration of 54 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Castro Point, Richmond, March 24 (BR) may represent a premigratory staging area; none was found two days later (JM, et al.) and the date is suitable for departure.

HAWKS TO GULLS

Wintering Broad-winged Hawks continue to be reported from Marine World Parkway through March 5 (mob, BH) and near Inverness to March 19 (MP, et al.). Another was spotted March 19 along Hwy. 1 north of Cascade Ranch, San Mateo County (MAD).

Eight Lesser Golden Plovers continued into March at Spaletta Ranch (mob) and at least seven were still there March 29 (JR, et al.). Less expected was one flying past Hayward Regional Shoreline March 26 (BR). The intersection of Rds. 102 and 27 near Davis is famous for wintering Mountain Plovers, but 72 March 26-27 (EH) was a high

count. So soon after establishing its first record for Alameda County, the **American Black Oystercatcher** has repeated the favor for Contra Costa County. A pair found Feb. 24-26 on Castro Rocks under the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge (BR) moved to the outer breakwater of the Brickyard Cove Marina March 4-28 (JR, FB, GC, mob, DE). A few Surfbirds in the same general area were early transients inside the Bay: one at Pt. Isabel jetty Feb. 24 and two on Castro Rocks Feb. 26-March 24 (all BR). Both the **Little Gull** and the **Common Black-headed Gull** remained at the Stockton Sewage Ponds, the former seen through March 11 (GN, JS, DQ) and the latter March 27 (EV, SG, DQ).

EMBERIZIDS

A Black-and-white Warbler was found March 12 just east of California Academy of Sciences (Ah, et al.). The Black-and-white Warbler wintering at Stinson Beach State Park was still there March 26 (JP, et al.). The Western Tanager at California Academy of Sciences March 6 (PU) either wintered locally or was over a month early as a migrant.

Some of the rare sparrows continued to be seen at popular marshes, at least when high tides helped. The two Sharp-tailed Sparrows and the Swamp Sparrow at Palo Alto were reported through March 1 (mob). Two Sharp-tails were seen again Feb. 27 at Dumbarton Marsh (BR, DS). At the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek a Sharp-tailed Sparrow and three White-throated Sparrows (the most reported together) were seen through March 26 (JP, DQ, et al.). A Harris' Sparrow found March 4 at Stockton Sewage Ponds (JS) remained through the month (JR, et al.). Once again the pair of **Great-tailed Grackles** was found at San Francisco Aquatic Park March 27 (PW).

Observers: Florence Bennett, Gary Bogue, Graham Chisholm, Glenn Coleman (GC), Jean Conner, Herold Connon, Paul Covel, Mary Ann Danielson, Dick Erickson, J. Russel Gabel, Ida Geary, Doug Gomke, Elaine Graffy, Steve Granholm, Jeff Greenhouse, Jay Harlow, Ed Harper, Bob Hirt, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Dick Kaufman, Oliver Komar, John Luther, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan, Gary Neal, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Bob Boekelheide, John Parmeter, Marjorie Plant, Dave Quady, Pat Quinn, Al Rehbock, Ruth Rehbock, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Schmoldt, Rich Stallcup, Astrid Steele, Maury Stern, John Stirling, Bill Stone, Phil Unitt, Ed Vine, John Winter, Patti Worthing).

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1982 Oakland Christmas Bird Count

This year's Oakland Christmas Count turned out to be rather a mixed bag with about an equal number of relatively high counts for some species (mostly waterbirds) and relatively low counts for others (mostly landbirds). We normally have national high counts of Brown Towhees and Steller's Jays, but both of these species were down in terms of numbers observed this year and we may be hard pressed to maintain our position. Abnormally high counts were found for both pelicans, Tundra Swans, cormorants, Buffleheads, California, Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls. The most notable low counts were in the dowitchers (only 9 identified as Short-billed!), the thrushes, Cedar Waxwings and Juncos. The best birds of the day have to be the 2 Rough-legged Hawks, the Hermit Warbler, the Prairie Falcon and the **65 Snow Geese**.

The sun turned out for the count on what has to have been one of the nicest days of the winter. The number of species found, 177 plus 3 forms and 1 hybrid, is in the usual range of 175-180. Thanks go to everyone who participated in the count and a special thanks to Hazel Houston and her crew who made all the arrangements for the countdown dinner at the church.

Red-throated Loon 36, Arctic Loon 2, Common Loon 44, Loon species 8, Pied-billed Grebe 216, Horned Grebe 364, Red-necked Grebe 1, Eared Grebe **325**, Western Grebe 1850, Western (Clark's) Grebe 31, **American White Pelican 26**, Brown Pelican **476**, Double-crested Cormorant **2038**, Brandt's Cormorant 133, Pelagic Cormorant **205**, Great Blue Heron 51, Snowy Egret 76 (low), Green-backed Heron 1, Black-crowned Night Heron 105, **Tundra Swan 149**, **Greater White-fronted Goose 100**, **Snow Goose 65**, Canada Goose 880, Wood Duck **12**, Green-winged Teal 52 (low), Mallard 830, Northern Pintail 947 (low), **Blue-winged Teal 1**, Cinnamon Teal 8, Northern Shoveler **854**, Gadwall **28**, American Wigeon 706 (low), Canvasback 674 (low), Redhead 59, Ring-necked Duck 59, Greater Scaup **7957**, Lesser Scaup **9419**, Scaup species 10,389, **Oldsquaw 1**, Surf Scoter 11,712, White-winged Scoter **426**, Common Goldeneye 725, Barrow's Goldeneye **66**, Bufflehead **1816**, Hooded Merganser 2, Common Merganser 4 (low), Red-breasted Merganser 95, Ruddy Duck **5689**, Turkey Vulture 186, **Osprey 1**, Black-shouldered Kite 14, Northern Harrier 20, Sharp-shinned Hawk 25, Cooper's Hawk 17, Accipiter species 8, **Red-shouldered Hawk 1**, Red-tailed Hawk 167, **Rough-legged Hawk 2**, Golden Eagle 3, American Kestrel 109, Merlin 6, **Prairie Falcon 1**.

California Quail 274, Ring-necked Pheasant 20, Clapper Rail 11, Virginia Rail 1, Sora 3, Common Moorhen 1, American Coot 3995, Black-bellied Plover 1794, Snowy Plover 3 (low), Semipalmated Plover 284, Killdeer 444, Greater Yellowlegs 12, Willet 1119, **Wandering Tattler 2**, Spotted Sandpiper 33, Whimbrel 11, Long-billed Curlew 147, Marbled Godwit 1312, Ruddy Turnstone 56, Black Turnstone 19, Red Knot 92, Sanderling 881, Western Sandpiper 3920, Least Sandpiper 430 (low), Peep species 700, Dunlin 3538 (low), Short-billed Dowitcher 9 (all-time low), Long-billed Dowitcher 603, Dowitcher species 615, Common Snipe 17, Black-necked Stilt 29, American Avocet 544 (low), Bonaparte's Gull 163, Heermann's Gull 2, Mew Gull 1127, Ring-billed Gull 1261, California Gull 7293, Herring Gull 68, Thayer's Gull 22, Western Gull 10,286, Glaucous-winged Gull 5703, Glaucous-winged x Western Gull 9, Gull species 5138, Forster's Tern 65, **Common Murre 3**, Rock Dove 2107, Band-tailed Pigeon 675, Mourning Dove 1534, Common Barn-Owl 3, Western Screech Owl 7, Great Horned Owl 37, Northern Pygmy-Owl 1, Burrowing Owl 14, Short-eared Owl 1, Northern Saw-whet Owl 8, Owl species 1, Anna's Hummingbird 525, Belted Kingfisher 12, Acorn Woodpecker 12, Red-breasted Sapsucker 16, Nuttall's Woodpecker 45, Downy Woodpecker 45, Hairy Woodpecker 10, Northern Flicker 355; Black Phoebe 74, Say's Phoebe 16, Horned Lark 23, Steller's Jay 313 (low), Scrub Jay 664, American Crow 60 (low), Common Raven 3, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 810, Plain Titmouse 156, Bushtit 2197, Red-breasted Nuthatch 69, White-breasted Nuthatch 41, Brown Creeper 61, Rock Wren 6, Bewick's Wren 120, Winter Wren 35, Marsh Wren 10, Golden-crowned Kinglet 80, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 887, Western Bluebird 155, Hermit Thrush 99 (low), American Robin 1238 (low), Varied Thrush 30 (low), Wrentit 456, Northern Mockingbird 44, California Thrasher 37, Water Pipit 115, Cedar Waxwing 395 (low), Loggerhead Shrike 8 (low), Eurasian Starling 3730, Hutton's Vireo 70, Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 911, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 48, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler 197, Townsend's Warbler 42, **Hermit Warbler 1**, Common Yellowthroat 5, Rufous-sided Towhee 181, Brown Towhee 784, Rufous-crowned Sparrow 7, Lark Sparrow 5, Savannah Sparrow 89, Fox Sparrow 146 (low), Song Sparrow 278, Lincoln's Sparrow 12, White-throated Sparrow 1, Golden-crowned Sparrow 113 (low), White-crowned Sparrow 1527, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 2, Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 1280 (low), Red-winged Blackbird 1166, Tricolored Blackbird 3 (low), Western Meadowlark 676, Brewer's Blackbird 925 (low), Brown-headed Cowbird 60, Purple Finch 17 (low), House Finch 1941, Pine Siskin 236 (low), Lesser Goldfinch 285 (low), American Goldfinch 506, House Sparrow 666.

So What's a Christmas Bird Count?

Christmas Bird Counts have been in existence since the turn of the century when ornithologist Frank Chapman apparently conceived of the idea as an alternative to the traditional Christmas "side hunt." This hunt was a competitive event in which participants went through woods, fields and marshes shooting anything that moved. At the end of the day they stacked the bodies in individual piles, the participant with the largest pile winning the day. In the December, 1900, issue of *Bird-Lore* (a predecessor of *Audubon* magazine), Chapman introduced the substitute idea of a Christmas Day walk to *count* birds rather than shoot them and the CBC was born.

From that first count—during which 27 observers conducted 25 counts in 12 states and two Canadian provinces—the CBC has grown into a continental event. Now thousands of counters census 15-mile-diameter circles all over North and Middle America. There were 1,418 counts in 1981 and this included 597 species and 19 forms of birds. According to the Audubon Society, it is the "biggest cooperative birding venture in the world today."

The Oakland Christmas Bird Count circle consists of all points within a 15-mile diameter, the center being 37° 48' N 122° 14' W, at the SW junction of Arimo and Vista, Oakland, to include Yerba Buena Island, bayshore from Pt. Isabel to Davis St., hills from Tilden Park to Knowland Arboretum, portions of San Pablo, Briones and Upper San Leandro reservoirs, east to St. Mary's College and Lafayette Reservoir—in all, 177 square miles.

[Torn, almost whole cloth, from Alan Pistorius' book, *The Country Journal Book of Birding and Bird Attraction.*]

—HELEN GREEN

Conservation Notes

THREATENING NORTH BAY DEVELOPMENT

A proposed development near Vallejo threatens the last major open space on the Bay. The owner of the Cullinan Ranch, on the shore of San Pablo Bay, plans to build a community of 4,500 dwellings, two marinas, restaurants, offices, shops, schools and a large hotel on the 1,500-acre property. This development would affect the entire Napa Marsh as well as the North San Pablo Bay and the Petaluma marshes, by cutting off wildlife habitat areas, important wintering ground for waterfowl, from the Bay itself.

Diked off from the Bay many years ago, the property has been a major producer of hay for the dairy industry. Construction on the site would be difficult and expensive. Huge amounts of fill would be needed and

the underlying soft bay mud would remain unstable in earthquakes. Sewage would have to be pumped out.

Agricultural use of this land has contributed to the region's economy for many years. The development would put a burden on the urban services of Vallejo as well as on the already overcrowded and dangerous highways. Conservationists have suggested an alternative plan, pointing out that the area would be an ideal site for a major marsh restoration project.

Most of the land is in Solano County, zoned for agriculture and open space. Last May the City of Vallejo extended its sphere of influence over the area at the request of the owner. Vallejo must also annex the land and amend its general plan and zoning. At this writing the draft Environmental Impact Report was due in mid-April.

For the moment the best way to influence this decision is to write to the Vallejo City Council and to the editors of the two newspapers, The Times Herald, 500 Maryland St., and the Vallejo Independent Press, 316 Napa St., both Vallejo, CA 94590. The Conservation Committee will be watching this issue closely.

—RUTH VOSS

MONO LAKE BENEFIT

Nature has provided Mono Lake with water this year, but Man must provide the money to help save the lake's environment by following through on the legal defense of its future.

See the April *Gull* for information about the June 18 docent-led tour of the art exhibit, "Treasures from the Shanghai Museum," at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco. If you have questions, please call Mildred Bennett at 415-526-1260. All reservations must be received by May 14 for us to comply with the museum's requirements for our visit.

MONO LAKE ACTION

Congressman Richard Lehman has introduced H.R. 1341, which, if passed and signed by the President, would provide national monument status for Mono Lake. National Audubon has joined the Mono Lake Committee and other groups in support of this legislation, which authorized a comprehensive study of alternative water management policies to conserve water, reduce the need for Mono diversions and provide for scientific monitoring of the lake's biological resources. Local co-sponsors of this bill include Barbara Boxer, Phillip Burton, Ron Dellums, Don Edwards, Tom Lantos, Douglas Bosco and Pete Stark. Norman Mineta, Leon Panetta and Ed Zschau are local members of Congress not listed as co-sponsors.

Representatives may be thanked and encouraged by writing Hon. _____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. A similar bill has not at this writing been introduced into the Senate. Letters to Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson would help. Address them at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

The Back Yard Birder

My yard is ringing with birdsong. The Bewick's Wren, Song Sparrow, House Finch, Robin and Brown Thrasher are setting up breeding territories and advertising their availability to females of their species. Once attracted by the special spring song, courtship and pair formation begin.

In all species it is the female who selects her mate. As a safeguard against hybridization, courtship rituals are highly characteristic for each species. Some of these displays are quite spectacular as in the graceful courtship dance of the whooping crane. Among species where the male does not take part in nesting, group displays take place. Males gather in areas or "leks," some locations being used for generations. In North America, lek-type dancing grounds are used by sage and sharp-tailed grouse and two species of prairie chickens. Probably this behavior establishes an heirarchy with the most dominant males being accepted by the females who gather round to watch.

Besides song, display plumages are vital, especially to birds such as the egret and the peacock, who use special feathers in courtship. These feathers are dropped when courting is ended. In some duck families, e.g., the mallard and the pintail, the females look alike. The males, however, have highly distinctive plumages and displays, enabling the females to choose the appropriate species. In birds with short nesting seasons these distinctive plumages allow the female to spot quickly an eligible male without going through a long courtship.

Different species occupying different ecological niches in the same habitat are usually ignored. If a stranger of the same species wanders into a bird's established territory, the "owner" meets the trespasser with feathers ruffled and issues a vocal threat. If "words" don't do the trick the intruder is chased off or attacked physically. Just as in our own society, it has been noted that there is a sort of seniority system. The older the bird, the more aggressive he is so that the successful older birds often hold the best and biggest sites.

Once the pair bond has been formed the birds stay close together, ignoring the company of other members of their species. The nature and the duration of the bond vary greatly among different groups of birds. Species which hold no territory and display in communal leks stay together only long enough to mate. Whereas among swans, e.g., the pairs bond for life, staying together the entire year. "Widows" and "widowers" may remarry, however. Most species form a seasonal bond, remaining together until the young are independent.

Mating may occur soon after pair formation or, in some cases, there

may be a short "engagement" of two weeks or more. The life circle then begins anew.

—MEG PAULETICH

How to Care for Young Birds

A young bird has much its best chance to survive if raised by its parents. Replace any uninjured young bird in its nest if possible or place it in a dry grass or wood excelsior-lined berry box or cottage cheese carton (with holes in the bottom). Fasten it near the nest site

A feathered bird that can hop and is unhurt should be placed in a bush or tree. Remember: most unattended baby birds have not been abandoned.

If the bird is uninjured, cannot be returned to its parents or is refused by them, put it in a small grass or paper-lined box and keep it warm. The box should be covered with a cloth at night and a 15-watt bulb may be needed to keep it warm, especially at night. A young bird must be fed regularly from early morning until dusk. About three feedings per hour is best. Handle the bird as little as possible; poke the food in small amounts well back in the throat. The bird will refuse to swallow when it is full. A frightened bird (young or adult) may have to be force fed at first; hold the bird in your hand, back against your palm, fingers curved around its breast and little finger for a perch. Gently squeeze the base of the bill with thumb and forefinger to open the bill.

Young birds get sufficient moisture from their food: do not give them water until they are able to drink from a dish themselves. A good basic food for all young songbirds is equal parts of finely-mashed yolks of hard-boiled eggs and finely-sifted bread crumbs, slightly moistened with milk or cod-liver oil. Good supplementary foods are canned dog food, bits of grapes, cherries, raisins, bananas, soft apple pulp, bits of finely scraped or chopped beef and baby food (strained beef and beef heart, strained beans and peas). Occasionally add chopped green leaves and stems of watercress or nasturtiums for calcium and vitamins and a bit of cottage cheese for protein.

Young hummingbirds should be fed a syrup of three parts water, one part honey or sugar. After ten days, mix finely sifted dry dog food with the syrup for protein. Feed with an eye-dropper.

Young woodpeckers should be fed a mixture of canned dog food and finely-mashed egg yolks.

Hawks and owls of all ages need raw meat, preferably with fur or feathers on it. Feed them freshly-caught mice, poultry or raw beef sprinkled with cod-liver oil, with which chicken feathers may be mixed. Start your hawk or owl eating by laying strips of meat across the bird's

feet until he picks them up and bolts them. A young bird will need to eat about three times a day, adults once a day.

As the young bird feathers out and begins to grow up, he should be introduced to his natural food. Birdseed for seed eaters; insects for insect-eaters; berries and fruit for tanagers, waxwings, thrushes, etc., earthworms for robins and thrushes. This holds for adult birds as well: pigeons and doves can be given "pigeon mix," most ducks "game bird chow," grebes and diving ducks fish, gulls bread, canned dog food and fish.

Remember: never release a bird until it can feed itself its natural diet. After it can do so, it is illegal to keep it.

(From a GGAS Board Statement)

Spring Birding Class and Field Trips

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey's final course of the spring quarter at Albany Adult School will be *Spring Vagrant Landbirds*, beginning Tuesday, May 3. See last month's *Gull*.

There may still be spaces on Steve's weekend trip to the desert region May 7-8 (extension 9-10). Call him at 548-9507 for information.

Open House at Richardson Bay

San Francisco Bay, Past and Present, a talk and slide presentation, will be given by Dr. Fred Nichols at Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Friday, May 27, at 11:30 a.m. An estuarine oceanographer with the United States Geological Survey in Menlo Park, Dr. Nichols has done extensive research on San Francisco Bay and has collected considerable data on which to base his ecological history of the Bay.

The talk is part of an open house sponsored by the Bay Shore Studies volunteers at the Audubon Center. The open house begins at 10 a.m. with coffee, followed by a walk on the beach and observation of a school class participating in the Bay Shore Studies program at 10:30. After Dr. Nichols' talk at 11:30, there will be a brown bag lunch on the Center grounds and a tour of the Center and Sanctuary at 1 p.m.

The Center is located at 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon. For further information, call 388-2524.

Point Reyes Field Seminar

Spring Birds: Migrants and Breeders is the offering May 21-22. Discussion will focus on ecological factors that influence behavior: territoriality, song, display, colonial contrasted with solitary nesting. Field trips to nearby areas are planned. The fee of \$45 includes dormitory accommodations at Clem Miller Environmental Center near Limantour Natural Area. Instructor David Winkler teaches zoology at UC Berkeley and has been involved in a long-term California gull study at Mono Lake.

Golden Trout Camp

This summer, chapters from central and southern California will again be sponsoring the Golden Trout Camp, a series of three one-week sessions from July 23 to August 13. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, south of Mt. Whitney, at an elevation of 10,000 feet. Campers are treated to a well-rounded environmental education experience amidst a truly spectacular setting. For more information, please call or write Cindy McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, 714-973-7897.

From the Ranch

The Herony and Ranch continue to be open to visitors. Currently 22 Great Blue Herons have arrived; there are seven nests with eggs. Eight Great White Egrets are selecting sites.

The Volunteer Council, with its teaching docents, is one of the great supports and assets of Audubon Canyon Ranch. In 1969, prompted by funding by the Junior League of San Francisco and the Frances R. Dewing Foundation and following a planning grant from the California State Board of Education, the Ranch board of directors established a nature teaching program for the Bay Area schools. Docents were trained by local and outside naturalists for both classroom teaching and outdoor laboratory work at the Ranch. The classroom teaching consisted of lectures with slides, specimens and docent-prepared kits; the outside teaching was held in the environs of the Ranch. The Volunteer Council has continued this training with great devotion to the present.

The training course for docents is now 16 weeks. On February 23, at the ninth training session, 22 students were graduated as docents for the Audubon Canyon Ranch at Bolinas. On February 16, at the second training session for Bouverie Audubon Preserve, 23 students were graduated for that location. On both occasions Chairman Bruce Howard presented diplomas and spoke with appreciation of the devotion and sincerity of these workers.

—CLIFFORD CONLY

Cooper's Meeting

On Monday, May 9, Martin Raphael of the U.S. Forest Service will present a talk to the Northern Chapter of the Cooper's Ornithological Society entitled *Diversity and abundance of vertebrates in relation to stand, age and area in Douglas fir forests*.

Martin has been studying forest bird communities for many years and his talk promises to be rich both in insight and beautiful slides. The presentation will be in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley. It will begin at 8 p.m., preceded by a business meeting at 7:45 p.m. Everyone interested in birds is encouraged to attend.

National Audubon Membership Problems

Individuals who have a problem regarding their memberships—such as a change of address that has apparently not gone through or a misunderstanding about a renewal—should write to National Audubon Society Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 2666, Boulder, CO 80322. Enclose a copy of the mailing label from the wrapper of your copy of *Audubon* magazine. If you cannot find your label, give your name and address as you believe it appears on the label. Please write, don't phone. There is far less chance of error when the information is received in writing. National Audubon Society has recently changed its system; we hope that it will be an improvement.

Bird Photography Course

A home study course in bird photography, prepared by professional photographers, is now offered by Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology. The course gives participants the opportunity to learn basic and advanced techniques for photographing birdlife.

Beginning with the selection and use of equipment, the course takes students from backyard bird photography at feeding and watering stations to nest photography and to advanced flash and remote-control set-ups. Other topics covered are photographing birds in flight, beginning and advanced cinematography and how and where to sell photographs.

More information on the home study course or other programs can be obtained by writing: Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. Telephone: 607-256-5056.

Promotion Offer

Bird Watcher's Digest is a bimonthly magazine featuring general interest articles about the world of birding, in some ways not unlike *Reader's Digest*. Several articles from the *Gull* have been reprinted in it with our permission. The current subscription rate is \$11 per year. GGAS members who subscribe to the magazine before May 30 will be contributing \$5 (of the subscription price) to the GGAS treasury. If you would like to subscribe send a check for \$11 made payable to GGAS to the office or call the office for more information. Copies of the *Bird Watcher's Digest* are available for review in the office.

Spring Cleaning

A vacuum cleaner is needed at the office. Does anyone have a used vacuum he or she would be willing to donate?

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THE GULL

May 1983

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Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward **THE GULL**. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership - local and national \$25 per year (individual); \$32 (family); includes **AUDUBON** Magazine and **THE GULL**; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving **THE GULL**. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to **THE GULL** separately \$6 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$15 per year. Senior citizen individual \$17, senior citizen family \$19. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**